

MARYLAND MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS



JOINT BASE ANDREWS LAW CENTER

Current as of May 2016

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

If you are a military member and your vehicle is registered in your home state of residence, in your name alone or jointly with your spouse, Maryland does not require re-registration (Maryland plates). If the vehicle is not registered in your home state, you have 60 days to register the vehicle in Maryland or in your home state. For more information, visit:

<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/registration/military.htm>

Maryland does not recognize vehicle registration ("plates") from foreign countries or military overseas (such as "Armed Forces Europe"), and requires you to immediately re-register the vehicle in your home state or Maryland.

To title and register your presently-owned vehicle in Maryland, you must bring or mail the following information to a Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) full service office:

- Proof of ownership (vehicle's existing title);
- The Application for Certificate of Title (form #VR-005);
- Maryland Safety Inspection Certificate (valid for 90 days); and
- Payment (must include title fee, fee to record the lien, excise tax, and tag fees).

If you do not have the title document, contact MVA toll-free at 1-800-950-1682 or visit a full service office. Ask for a letter (form #VR-056) for you to send to your lienholder requesting that your title be sent to MVA. Follow the instructions on the letter and send it to your lienholder.

Additional documents and fees may be required. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/vehicles/registration/new-to-maryland.htm>.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Active duty military members and their dependents are not required to obtain a Maryland driver's license if: (1) the driver has a license issued by the driver's state of residence; and (2) the license authorizes the driver to drive vehicles of the class the licensee is driving in Maryland. Military members and their dependents, however, may not drive a commercial motor vehicle. Maryland does not recognize driver's licenses issued by the Armed Forces in foreign countries. You have 30 days after returning to the U.S. to get a valid license from your home state or Maryland.

To obtain a Maryland license you must go to a full service MVA branch office and present the following:

- Proof of age/identity (i.e. birth certificate, passport, etc.)
- Documentation of valid, verifiable SSN or proof of ineligibility (i.e. SSN card, W-2 form, pay stub, etc.);
- 2 proofs of Maryland residency (i.e. checking or savings account statement, utility, telephone, or cable/satellite TV bill, etc.); and
- Your out-of-state driver's license.

For assistance in determining which documents to bring, please visit:

<http://license.mva.maryland.gov/CheckList/default.aspx>

If your out-of-state license has been expired for more than 1 year and your former state of residence grants a military extension, you will have to pass a vision screening test and pay the appropriate fee. If your former state of domicile does not grant military extension, you will also be required to take the knowledge and skills test.

If you have further questions on this subject, please schedule an appointment to meet with a legal assistance attorney by calling (240) 612-5750.

Motor Vehicle Administration
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Glen Burnie, Maryland 21602
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